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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1959.



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NORMAN CROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Venerable A. ROYLE

Miss E. E. BROWN

H. WILLIAMS, J.P.

(Chairman of the Council)

REV. A. E. BISHOP

T. E. R. PARSONS

C. SMITH

H. M. T. JONES

W. F. CANNON, O.B.E., J.P.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector H. E. REEVE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health

Inspector..... A. E. BENNETT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1959)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9150
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2665
Rateable Value, 31/12/59	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£74,397
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£300.8.3.

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The District lies in the north of the County of Huntingdonshire. It is made up of a number of villages. The chief industries are agriculture and brick-making, and there is also some engineering and a tar distillery. Peterborough is easy of access, and a considerable number of the inhabitants of the District work in the town. The A.1. road runs through the middle of the area, and it has recently been greatly improved and made into a dual carriageway.

The general health of the District has been very good and there have been no epidemics.

The Registrar General estimates that the population has increased slightly during the year (160). The birth rate is still slightly below the national average, and so is the death rate, but when adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor it is slightly above the national rate. The infantile mortality rate of 37.9 per thousand is high this year. There were 5 deaths out of 132 births. The previous year there were 2 deaths out of 136 births and this gave a low rate of 14.7 per thousand. Where numbers are small, statistics can appear to vary a great deal. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

With council houses urgently required, it was a worrying year for Council Members to see the Contractor getting more and more behind with the erection of the dwellings at Yaxley and Holme, especially on account of the great desire that there was to finally close all houses at Sibson Camp. The Council now has quite a satisfactory building programme in hand, and it is to be hoped that it progresses as expected because there is a lot of slum property in the area which requires demolition, but first of all new houses must be built.

Because of the exceedingly dry summer the water supply to the District became a serious problem, but this is well dealt with in the Surveyor's report which follows.

The difficulty of satisfactorily draining the effluent from the existing and new property in Folksworth is becoming apparent, and with the increasing popularity of this parish for new housing the area is now requiring consideration for the construction of a sewerage scheme.

The Brick Works, having applied have been allowed to be placed under the control of the Minister through the Chief Alkali Inspector with regard to supervision of smoke and fumes emitted. They will henceforth be required to use the best practicable means they can for preventing nuisance. I understand that at present research is being conducted in Holland where the adverse effects of fluorine upon the bulb industry is causing some concern.

I acknowledge with thanks the help of the Members of the Council, their officers and staff, during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	.....	132
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	.....	14.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	.....	3.79
Still-births	.....	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	22.2
Total live and still-births	.....	135
Infant deaths	.....	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	.....	37.9
" " " " " " " —legitimate	.....	39.4
" " " " " " " —illegitimate	.....	Nil
Neo Natal (first four weeks)	.....	30.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	.....	22.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	.....	44.5
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	.....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	.....	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....	10.3

INFANT DEATHS

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Actual Number of Deaths	3	3	2	1	2	5
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	28.3	21.7	17.2	7.4	14.7	37.9
Deaths from Cancer (total)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Coronary Disease—angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Other Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Births	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Norman Cross R.D.C.	14.4	15.3	10.3	12.5	37.9	22.2
England & Wales	16.5	16.5	11.6	11.6	22.0	20.7

Comparability Factor for Births	.....	1.06
Comparability Factor for Deaths	.....	1.21

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	47	47	94
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	12	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	2	4	6
21. Other circulatory disease	4	—	4
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	4	5
24. Bronchitis	—	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	4	7	11
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	—	1	1
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Office,
18, Priestgate,
Peterborough.

27th June, 1960.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

HOUSING :—The number of new dwellings built since 1945 is as follows :—

(a) **By the District Council** :—

Up to 31.12.1956.		During 1958.		During 1959.	
Alwalton	4	Holme	2	Holme	10
Chesterton	2				
Elton	18				
Farcet	44				
Folksworth	2				
Glatton	4				
Holme	8				
Morborne	4				
Orton Longueville	6				
Orton Waterville	10				
Stibbington	2				
Stilton	28				
Yaxley	88				
	220		2		10—232

Temporary dwellings adapted and in use :—

Sibson Camp—8 in use

Dwellings under construction by Council :

Yaxley—14 Bungalows and 18 Houses and 12 Flats

—44 Dwellings

Plans approved or in preparation :—

Yaxley Broadway—52 dwellings.

Sites at Farcet, Stilton and Elton.

(b) by Private Developers :—

The number of dwellings completed since January, 1947 is as follows —

YEAR	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS	TOTAL
1947/52	33	11	44
1953	20	6	26
1954	20	26	46
1955	24	26	50
1956	29	31	60
1957	16	32	48
1958	19	16	35 *
1947—58	161	148	309

*Including 1 Conversion.

Completed during 1959.

PARISH	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS	CONVERSION	TOTAL
Alwalton		1		1
Denton & Caldecote	1			1
Elton		2		2
Farcet	4	1		5
Folksworth		5		5
Holme	1			1
Orton Longueville	4	30		34
Orton Waterville	1	2		3
Stilton	1			1
Yaxley	1	3		4
	13	44		57

Total private dwellings erected since 1947 — — — 366

Private dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1959 :—

29 Houses and 27 Bungalows — — — 56 Dwellings

Private Enterprise Housing recovered well after the economic squeeze of 1958, the 1959 figures shewing a considerable improvement. Whilst the majority of dwellings were erected in Orton Longueville, developers are becoming interested in other parishes as it is fast being realised that with modern transport it is quite convenient to have a home several miles from the place of work ; one medium sized private housing estate in a village such as Yaxley could easily be the start of schemes similar in size to those at Orton Longueville where the truth of the saying “Development encourages development” has been shewn.

The country wide building boom has resulted in various materials being in short supply. Lengthy delivery periods are being quoted for bricks, but there are signs that Architects and Builders are making use of alternative methods of construction wherever possible.

Council House Building at Holme and Yaxley continued slowly for various reasons, the Contractor being well behind the proper completion date.

6 Houses and 4 Bungalows were completed at Holmewood and the Nissen Bungalows occupied since 1948 were demolished; the Council own ample land on this site for future development, either by the Council or private persons. On one large frontage plot a good quality private house has already been built, and further similar development may be possible.

18 Houses, 14 Bungalows and 12 Flats on the Broadway Estate at Yaxley should be completed early 1960, for local need, and rehousing of occupants of huts at Site 3 and Airfield, Sibson Camp. A further 52 houses to be commenced in 1960 will complete this Estate, which will then include two, three, and four bedroomed houses, bungalows and flats.

Layouts are in preparation for Housing Estates at Farcet and Stilton in order that there may be a continuous building programme.

No new Demolition Orders were made during the year, but 28 houses were demolished in accordance with Orders already made or by agreement with Owners. 1 Closing Order was made and 2 Houses were closed, one of which was converted to a garage. As soon as new houses are ready in Farcet and Stilton there will be considerable activity in this direction.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into force during the year. This Act made available the new Standard Grant under which house owners can obtain, as a right, half the cost up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements—a bath or shower, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food store. The Standard Grant is in addition to the Discretionary Grant, and together these will be most useful aids to the improvement of existing property. During the year 10 applications for Discretionary Grants and 7 application for Standard Grants were received.

Water Supply. The summer of 1959 was the driest in living memory. From May 1st, to September 30th, 7.5 inches of rain fell over England and Wales; this is the least ever recorded, the next lowest for the period being in 1750 when 8.1 inches fell. The lack of rain was exceptional enough, but the really extraordinary feature was the duration of the dry weather. In many areas of the Country there were serious water supply problems, particularly where reservoirs were the source of supply. In our case, the pressure in the Oundle Road intake was so low that pumping had to be reduced to maintain a safety margin in the storage tanks; this area requires investigating to find a point from which a

supply at better pressure can be drawn. On the Fletton Avenue intake the Booster Station is still supplying water to a large part of the Old Fletton Urban District in addition to our own needs. During May, June and July the demand from the Fletton area was so great that difficulty was experienced in maintaining the Yaxley reservoir at a safe level, and this storage could not be used to help the Oundle Road supply. Work on a new reservoir and mains in the Old Fletton area commenced this year and is 70% complete ; when complete there will be separate supplies to the Urban and Rural areas, and with our own Booster Station modified to operate on pressure control there should be a satisfactory pressure in Farcet and Yaxley. The main reason for the excessive summer water consumption is undoubtedly the widespread use of hosepipes for garden watering ; if effective action could be taken to stop this then there should be sufficient for normal domestic and industrial use.

Several small improvements and alterations were carried out during the year, including relaying of sections of main on the Great North Road necessitated by the construction of the dual carriageway.

During the year 55 Domestic, 37 Metered and 89 Building supplies were connected. There were 59 burst mains and 49 burst services. Water consumption was 51,180 thousand gallons on metered supplies and 63,155 thousand on domestic, a total of 104,336 thousand gallons. The domestic consumption was 18.9 gallons per head per day.

Drainage. By the end of 1959 drains from 1,095 properties had been connected to the public sewers in Yaxley, Farcet, Stilton, Orton Longueville and Orton Waterville.

The Consulting Engineers have prepared plans for main drainage of Elton, Sibson-cum-Stibbington and Holme, and some lengths of 7" sewers have been laid under the new dual carriageway at Sibson and Stibbington in advance of contract so that the new roads will not have to be closed at a later date.

The heavy clay sub-soil in most of the District is difficult to drain by the Septic Tank method where any number of houses are built, and sewerage of further parishes in due course would encourage development.

Refuse Collection. The present collection system utilises a diesel engined Fore and Aft Tipping vehicle, with a Driver/Loader and 2 loaders, a fortnightly collection being made from the kerbside ; in the case of the aged or infirm, collection is made from the rear. Labour for this work is difficult to obtain at the present rate of pay, but improvements to the scheme by changing to collection from the rear and increasing the frequency of collection would probably be easier if some form of bonus scheme was used.

Farcet Tip was levelled during the year and the pond at Haddon was filled and is ready for final covering.

As the Tip at Orton Waterville is close to a new Housing Estate, as an experiment a low lying area in the City was used as a Tip for a short time, in conjunction with Old Fletton U.D.C. vehicles, but this was not continued as control was too difficult.

Meat and Food Inspection. Regular overtime is being worked at the Farcet Slaughterhouse to maintain 100% inspection. During 1959 1 calf, 107 cattle, 3,793 pigs and 844 sheep were killed.

Further work has been done on the inspection of food premises.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	107	—	1	844	3793	—
Number inspected	107	—	1	844	3793	—

All diseases except

Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	—	1	7	99	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	14.95	—	100	0.82	2.61	—

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	1	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	Nil	Nil	211	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.60	—	Nil	Nil	5.56	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—

Food Premises.

1. No. of Food Premises by type of business.

Bakehouses	4	} 96 Premises. (None has been counted under more than one heading).
Butchers	4	
Cafes	3	
Fish and Chips	6	
General Dealers	33	
Greengrocers	1	
Public Houses	30	
Sweets	7	
Poultry Packing Works Canteens	3	
	5	

2. No. of Food Premises by type registered under Section 16 of F.D.A. 1955 and No. of Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regs.

Bakehouses	1
Butchers	3
Dairies	Nil
General Dealers	26
Public Houses & Clubs	2
Sweets	6

3. No. of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary :— 201.

4. Any new educational activity — Nil

5. Method of disposal of condemned food :— Stained green and removed by Contractor. Subsequently treated at waste products plant.

6. Where special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary the total quantity as well as quantity condemned. Nil

Miscellaneous. An addition to the Building Byelaws was made during the year by the adoption of a section concerning smoke prevention. Under this Byelaw heating and cooking appliances provided in a new building must be suitably designed for burning smokeless fuel.

The smell from the Sugar Beet Corporation's settling pond at Orton Longueville was particularly offensive this summer, the smell during the drying-off period affecting most of Orton Longueville and at certain times even being noticeable in Woodston and Peterborough. It has been suggested to the Corporation that an odour masking compound should be sprayed into the air around the pond, and it is hoped that this together with other works will improve the situation next summer. Nevertheless, taking the long term view further discussions with the Corporation will be necessary to see if a suitable alternative site can be found for the pond.

A total of 340 Plans and Applications were examined and placed before the appropriate Committees, details being as follows :—

New Houses	67
Bungalows	36
Garden, Tool and Store Shed	14
Agricultural Buildings	13
Garages	29
Outline Applications	39
Notices and Signs	10
New Accesses	6
Alterations and Additions	22
Pigsties	1
Schools	2
Conversions to dwellings	13
Electricity Lines	12
Greenhouses and Conservatories	2
Temporary Dwellings	1
Petrol Filling Stations	1
Caravan Applications	22
(25 Licences in force)	
Miscellaneous	25

4,218 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors, as follows :-

New Buildings	307	Housing and Public Health	
Sewers and Drains	440	Acts	174
Rodents	20	Caravans	23
Refuse Disposal	55	Civil Defence	4
Water Supply	168	Council, Committees,	
Council Houses	519	Conferences	42
Infectious Diseases	3	Vermin	9
Meat and Food	201	Interviews	2,081
		Miscellaneous	158
		Factories Act	12

May I thank the Council, my colleagues and staff for their help during the year.

H. ERIC REEVE,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1959.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	1	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	1	|	|	|	33	3	|	|	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	5	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
3 — 4	|	|	|	|	|	6	1	|	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	|	|	|	9	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	1	1	|	|	|	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	2	|	|	3	57	5	|	1	|	|	|	|
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	Erysipelas .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Smallpox .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Scarlet Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Diphtheria .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Pneumonia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Measles .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Jaundice .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Puerperal Pyrexia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Meningococcal Meningitis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Food Poisoning .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,
Your obedient servant,
PHILIP V. CANT,
Medical Officer of Health.

